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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
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МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ АМНИСТИЯ
منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

URGENT ACTION

PUBLIC **AI Index: ASA 21/27/98**

UA 94/98 **Incommunicado Detention** **24 March 1998**

EAST TIMOR **Jose da Costa Soares, 39**
Agostinho Goncalves, 22
Gil Ximenes, 22

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of three men arrested in recent days in East Timor. The three are believed to be in custody at Police Resort, Dili, the capital of East Timor, and so far are thought to have been denied access to independent legal counsel.

Jose da Costa was arrested from his house in Comoro, Dili, after police raided his house searching for Agostinho Goncalves, a student at the University of East Timor. There is an unconfirmed report that Jose da Costa's brother, Domingos da Costa, was also arrested during the raid. It is not clear precisely what date Jose da Costa was taken into custody.

Agostinho Goncalves was arrested on 21 March 1998. Another University of East Timor student, Gil Ximenes, was also arrested, although it is not clear whether this was on the same day. The precise reason for the arrest of the two students is not known.

Amnesty International is concerned that the three men appear to have been denied access to independent legal counsel.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Arbitrary arrests of individuals suspected of opposing Indonesia's occupation of East Timor are common. East Timorese taken into both military and police custody face the risk of being tortured and ill-treated, particularly in the early stages of detention during which they are under interrogation. Safeguards against torture and ill-treatment of detainees, such as the right to independent legal counsel at all stages of an investigation, provided for under Indonesia's Code of Criminal Procedures, are frequently ignored by the military and the police. Detainees are routinely denied access to legal counsel and to their families, thereby increasing the risk of ill-treatment and torture.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Bahasa Indonesia or English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to provide information about the exact charges against the three men, or if they are not to be charged with a recognisable criminal offence, to release them;
- urging that the three men have immediate, regular and on-going access to independent legal counsel;
- seeking assurances that the three men will not be subjected to torture or ill-treatment.

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APPEALS TO:

CHIEF OF NATIONAL POLICE
Lt. Gen. Dibyo Widodo
Kapolri
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI
Jl. Trunojoyo 13
Kebayoran Baru
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia
Telegrams: Kapolri, Jakarta, Indonesia
Fax: 62 21 720 7277
Salutation: Dear Lt Gen Widodo

COPIES TO:

MINISTER OF JUSTICE
Muladi
Menteri Kehakiman
Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said Kav. 6-7
Kuningan
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia
Fax: 62 21 525 3095

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 May 1998.